MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2017/2018

PEN 0055 – ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

(All sections / groups)

7 MARCH 2018
2.30P.M.-4.30P.M.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This Question Paper consists of **five** pages.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A, B** and **C**.
3. Write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [26 MARKS]

Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

Influence of Social Media on Teenagers

1 The influence of social media on adolescents and teenagers is of particular importance, not only because this particular group of children is developmentally vulnerable but also because they are among the heaviest users of social networking. According to a report by Common Sense Media, 75 per cent of teenagers in America currently have profiles on social networking sites, of which 68 per cent use Facebook as their main social networking tool.

2 While social networking undoubtedly plays a vital role in broadening social connections and learning technical skills, its risks cannot be overlooked. The lack or difficulty in self-regulation and susceptibility to peer pressure makes adolescents vulnerable to such evils as Facebook depression, sexting, and cyberbullying, which are realistic threats. Other problems such as social network-induced obesity, Internet addiction and sleep deprivation are issues that continue to be under intense scrutiny and study for the contradictory results that have been obtained in various studies.

3 The American Psychological Association defines bullying as aggressive behaviour by an individual that causes discomfort to another. Cyberbullying ranges from direct threatening and unpleasant emails to anonymous activities such as trolling. Even forwarding a private note to a group without permission from the sender is often perceived as cyberbullying. Researchers also found that nearly 39 per cent of teenagers on social network have been cyberbullied in some way, compared with 22 per cent of online teenagers who do not use social networks. Trolling, the act of deliberately inflicting hatred, bigotry, racism, misogyny, or just simple bickering between people, often anonymously, is also pervasive in social network.

4 A very important cause for cyberbullying is the anonymity possible on the Internet. According to Stopbullying.gov website, two kinds of people are likely to be cyberbullies — the popular ones and those on the fringes of society; the former resort to such activities to stay popular or to feel powerful, while the latter troll to fit into a society or to get back at a society that excludes them. The National Council on Crime Prevention found from a survey that about three out of four victims of cyberbullying eventually trace the identity of the cyberbully, and so the anonymity may not be as safe a net as the bully believes. The cyberbully is often a friend or someone they know from school or outside. Only 23 per cent of the victims reported to have been bullied by someone they do not know.

5 Cyberbullying appears easy to the bully because they do not see their victims' reactions in person, and thus the impact of the consequences is small. In reality, however, the consequences can be life altering to the extent that the victims could go as far as taking their lives or become psychologically distressed enough to require medical intervention. The ironically individualistic nature of social networking activities makes it difficult to recognise a victim of cyberbullying, but tell-tale signs include avoiding or being anxious around the computer or mobile phone and sudden change in behaviour patterns.

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Sexting, the action of sending sexually revealing pictures of themselves or
6 sexually explicit messages to another individual or group, is another common activity among the teen community in social media. A nationwide survey by the National Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found a shocking 20 per cent of teenagers participating in sexting. While teenage boys resort to sending sexually explicit or suggestive messages, teenage girls are more likely to send inappropriate photographs of themselves, mostly to their boyfriends. However, the permanence and pervasiveness of the Internet make it a fertile ground for spreading such information to the extent of getting viral. 17 per cent of sexters admittedly share the messages they receive with others, and 55 per cent of those share them with more than one person. Beyond the personal trauma and humiliation sexting may cause, there are judicial ramifications as well; some states consider such activities as misdemeanours while many group sexting under felony.

"Facebook depression", defined as emotional disturbance that develops when preteens and teenagers spend a great deal of time on social media sites, is now
7 a very real malady. Recent studies have shown that comparisons are the main cause of Facebook depression; the studies showed that down-comparison (comparing with inferiors) was just as likely to cause depression as up-comparison (comparing with people better than oneself). However, there are contradictory reports as well. Another study showed that Facebook makes us happier and increases social trust and engagement among users. Given that our brains are wired to connect, it seems logical to expect that social networks, by enabling sharing, could cause a self-reinforcing sense of psychological satisfaction. These studies show that the effect of social network on well-being hinges on how social networks are used, whether to connect or to compare.

Other risks of extensive social networking among youth are losing privacy, sharing too much information, and disconnecting from reality. The digital footprint
8 is a permanent trail that users of social media, indeed of the Internet itself, leave the moment they sign into any service. The digital footprint, by its permanence, can have serious repercussions in future, in both professional and personal areas of life. It is important to know that every activity online like the posts on social media accounts, comments left on various sites, tweets, retweets can contribute to the digital footprint. Another serious risk is the amount of information shared on social network sites. LexisNexis and Lawers.com surveyed 1,000 Americans and found that half of them divulged too much personal data online. What is more worrying is the fact that 44 per cent of them believed that the information they posted on sites like Facebook, LinkedIn or MySpace were being used against them.

Adolescence is the time to spread wings and take the tentative first flight out into the world, and parents and caregivers must be part of the process. In the domain
9 of social networking, this entails parents becoming educated about the advantages and disadvantages of social networking and themselves joining social network sites, not to hover, but to be aware of the activities of their teenage children. It is essential that parents are aware of and monitor privacy settings and online profiles of their children. Open discussions about social network protocols and etiquettes would go a long way in establishing global digital citizenship and healthy behaviour.

Adapted from Suren, R. (2017, September 6). *Influence of Social Media on Teenagers*. Retrieved from https://www.huffingtonpost.com/suren-ramasubbu/influence-of-social-media-on-teenagers

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Question 1: Contextual Clues (6 marks)

Instructions: *Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.*

Example:	**easily wounded or hurt**	**(paragraph 1)**	**word: vulnerable**
a)	close or careful observation	(paragraph 2)	
b)	done by someone of unknown name	(paragraph 3)	
c)	to ascertain by investigation	(paragraph 4)	
d)	to some degree	(paragraph 5)	
e)	a condition of emotional dejection condition	(paragraph 7)	
f)	signs or marks track left by someone or something	(paragraph 8)	

Question 2: True or False (5 marks)

Instructions: *For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.*

a) 68 per cent of the teenagers in America have profiles on social networking sites especially Facebook.

b) Trolling is inescapable in social network.

c) The victim of cyberbullying shows signs of avoiding or being anxious around the computer or cell phone.

d) Boys prefer to send inappropriate photographs of themselves to their girlfriends.

e) Open discussions about social network protocols and etiquettes are very useful to create global digital citizenship and healthy behaviour.

Question 3: Comprehension Questions (15 marks)

Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a) State the problems brought by social networking to adolescents. (3 marks)

b) What are the actions that are considered to be cyberbullying? (2 marks)

c) Why do people choose to be cyberbullies? (3 marks)

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d) How do the states in America respond to sexting? (2 marks)

e) Explain the main cause of Facebook depression. (2 marks)

f) How does extensive social networking cause the loss of privacy? (2 marks)

g) What is the main idea of paragraph 9? (1 mark)

SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example:

No	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	… heatwaves. Our…	…heatwaves, our …

Urban Heat Islands

When it comes to coping with heatwaves. Our own cities are conspiring against us. The paving roads, construction of pavements and erecting buildings have all contributed to keeping urbanised environments three to four degrees hotter than surrounding non-urbanised areas. With heatwaves like the ones that have just baked half of Australia to a crisp forecast to increase in frequency and intensity. City councils are taking the urban heat island effect very seriously.

The urban heat island effect occurs because the dense dark surfaces such as bitumen on roads, concrete roofing and building materials used in cities accumulate and store heat during the day and then release it at night. This affects the temperature in cities significantly, particularly during hot summer evenings when the minimum temperatures are much warmer at night and not cooling down. That can have health implications. Those health implications are staggering, in 2009, 374 people died across metropolitan Melbourne in one heatwave. It was more than Victoria's annual road toll.

One of the simplest solutions to reducing the urban heat island effect is to provide more shade and plant more trees. In 2012, Melbourne city council launched an ambitious project to double the tree canopy cover by planting about 3,000 new trees every year from 22 per cent to 40 per cent by 2040. "On thermal images, you can see clearly the red hotspots of cities are the streets, major roads, open carparks – wherever there is bitumen and concrete – and you can see the contrast with parks, garden and trees," says councillor Cathy Oke, chair of Melbourne City council. The tree planting; however, has its limitations. Trees cannot be planted in the middle of roads, they cannot necessarily be planted on private property. There are also potential issues with having too many trees. Some cities in the United States on tree planting went overboard; as a result, women felt less safe walking around the streets.

Adapted from Nogrady, B.(2017). *Urban heat islands* . Retrieved from https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/feb/21/urban-heat-islands

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SECTION C: WRITING [24 MARKS]

Instructions: *Write an essay of about 350 words on **ONE** of the topics below.*

a) In the 21st century, learning is not limited to in class and face-to-face only. Learning is also carried out through online and mobile platforms. Write an exemplification essay on the productive uses of smartphones in students' learning process.

b) There are numerous famous big cities around the globe like Paris, New York and Tokyo. The population of these cities reaches billions. Nonetheless, some people still prefer living away in the country side. What are the differences between living in a big city and in the countryside?

End of Paper